

From: [Emily Lindley](#)
To: [Andrea Morrow](#)
Cc: [Michael Honeycutt](#); [Gray, David](#); [Ryan Vise](#); [Richard Chism](#); [Susan Johnson](#); [Tracy Miller](#); [Lori Wilson](#)
Subject: Re: Do we have a winner on the AP response?
Date: Sunday, September 3, 2017 12:23:13 PM

My edits below.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 12:17 PM, Andrea Morrow <Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov> wrote:

Any additions, corrections?

Air Quality Monitoring: Monitors are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning and local residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to the effects of the storm. Due to quick action and proper preparation by state authorities, all the ambient air quality monitors in the network from south of Corpus Christi to Beaumont were protected before the storm. Since then, state authorities are working to get the systems up and running again. As of Saturday, September 2, over 88 percent of monitors are up and working again in Corpus Christi, 85 percent in Houston, and 36 percent in Beaumont. Of the available air monitoring data collected from August 24-September 2, 2017, all measured concentrations were well below levels of health concern. Monitors are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning, and local residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to the effects of the storm.

EPA has its surveillance aircraft conducting air monitoring for the Arkema plant fire. Also, EPA's mobile air-monitoring unit will be in Houston to assist with air monitoring as well. Also, EPA's mobile air monitoring Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer bus will be in Houston to assist with air monitoring as well. The TAGA is a self-contained mobile laboratory capable of real-time sampling and of outdoor air or emissions. The instrumentation refers both to the analytical instrument and the mobile laboratory built around it.

Emergency response monitoring at the Arkema facility evacuation perimeter is being conducted. We will make those data available as we are able. So far, nothing of immediate health concern has been detected.

We have established a Unified Command with other state and federal partners, and are in the field conducting rapid needs assessments. The TCEQ will use the available technology that will best support the field activities being conducted, which may include the use of hand held air monitoring equipment.

Continue to monitor the TCEQ's Hurricane Response website for updates:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/hurricanes>

Hurricane Response - TCEQ - www.tceq.texas.gov

www.tceq.texas.gov

Information you might need if you are affected by a tropical storm or hurricane.

From: Michael Honeycutt

Sent: Sunday, September 3, 2017 12:10 PM

To: Andrea Morrow

Cc: Emily Lindley; Gray, David; Ryan Vise; Richard Chism; Susan Johnson; Tracy Miller; Lori Wilson

Subject: Re: Proposed response to AP questions with EPA additions- please review

Tuesday

On Sep 3, 2017, at 12:09 PM, Andrea Morrow <Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov> wrote:

Do we know when that will begin? That will make my life a lot easier! ;)

From: Michael Honeycutt

Sent: Sunday, September 3, 2017 12:08 PM

To: Emily Lindley

Cc: Gray, David; Andrea Morrow; Ryan Vise; Richard Chism; Susan Johnson; Tracy Miller; Lori Wilson

Subject: Re: Proposed response to AP questions with EPA additions- please review

Could also add TCEQ will soon begin daily updates on air quality that will be available on hurricane webpage.

On Sep 3, 2017, at 12:06 PM, Emily Lindley <Emily.Lindley@tceq.texas.gov> wrote:

What about adding this info in? It's pretty good.

As of Saturday, September 2, over 88 percent of monitors are up and working again in Corpus Christi, 85 percent in Houston, and 36 percent in Beaumont; and authorities expect that the network will be fully operational again by next week. Of the available air monitoring data collected from August 24-September 2, 2017, all measured concentrations were well below levels of health concern. Monitors are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning, and local residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to the effects of the storm.

Anyone is welcome to disagree! Just my opinion. It's going in the other statement.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 11:57 AM, Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov> wrote:

I should have the information about on the ground monitoring around cosby in a few minutes

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 11:51 AM, Andrea Morrow <Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov> wrote:

David, can you give me a description of what the TAGA bus does?

This is a response to the Associated Press questions:

- 1) We have been told EPA is doing air monitoring at the Arkema plant in Crosby. Can you tell me what your monitoring has found? What chemicals in what concentrations? Where are you doing the monitoring exactly, with what instruments?

2) Your data shows multiple ozone and PM monitoring stations in Houston were knocked out during the story. Was it indeed more than half of the ozone monitors? When do you expect them to be fixed and back online?

3) Are EPA/TCEQ monitoring air quality around Houston petrochemical plants and refineries to look for potential health and safety problems? Have they deployed any mobile air monitors? (I gather these are EPA crews working in coordination with TCEQ?) If so, what have they found in the last few days near the petrochemical plants around the ship channel? If they haven't been monitoring, why not? The startup and shutdown operations typically produce heavier emissions of airborne contaminants, as we know.

2) Other than ozone and PM10 and PM2.5 are you monitoring for any other specific compounds?

3) What are the state of Texas and the EPA doing to monitor public health near the petrochemical plants and refineries given the extraordinary shutdown and startup pollution and the possibility of contaminants released into their neighborhoods? Will there be health monitoring? If so, by whom? If not, why not?

From: Emily Lindley

Sent: Sunday, September 3, 2017 11:48 AM

To: Ryan Vise

Cc: Andrea Morrow; Gray, David; Michael Honeycutt; Richard Chism; Susan Johnson; Tracy Miller; Lori Wilson

Subject: Re: Proposed response to AP questions with EPA additions- please review

I added the word Arkema at the end of the 1st paragraph. I think we need to say what the TAGA bus is and what it does. I like that we got that in there. Just need to explain to the public more.

Just so I'm straight is this part of the larger statement from this morning? Or something different?

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 11:44 AM, Ryan Vise <Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov> wrote:

I'm good with the language

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 11:43 AM, Andrea Morrow <Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov> wrote:

I've heard from Cory, David, and Mike. OCE are you ok with the start-up/shut-down language? Lori, Emily, Ryan, any changes?

Air Quality

Monitoring: Monitors

are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning and local residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to the effects of the storm. Due to quick action and proper preparation by state authorities, all the ambient air quality monitors in the network from south of Corpus Christi to Beaumont were protected before the storm. Since then, state authorities are working to get the systems up and running again. As of Saturday, September 2, over 70 percent of the monitors are up and working again;

and authorities expect that the network will be fully operational again by next week.

EPA has its surveillance aircraft conducting air monitoring for the Arkema plant fire. Also, EPA's mobile air monitoring TAGA bus will be in Houston to assist with air monitoring as well.

Emergency response monitoring at the Arkema facility evacuation perimeter is being conducted. We will make those data available as we are able. So far, nothing of immediate health concern has been detected.

The same rules apply for start-up, shut-down activities

however
delays may
occur based
upon factors
related to the
emergency in
some
situations (i.e.
power
outages,
computer
system failure,
etc.).

From: Gray,
David
<gray.david@epa.gov>

Sent: Sunday,
September 3,
2017 11:38 AM

To: Michael
Honeycutt

Cc: Andrea
Morrow;
Richard Chism;
Ryan Vise;
Susan Johnson;
Tracy Miller;
Lori Wilson;
Emily Lindley

Subject: Re:
Proposed
response to AP
questions -
please review

Feel free to
add that EPA
has its
surveillance

aircraft
conducting air
monitoring for
the plant fire.
Also, our
mobile air
monitoring
TAGA bus will
be in Houston
to assist with
air monitoring.

Sent from my
iPhone

On Sep 3,
2017, at 11:35
AM, Michael
Honeycutt
<Michael.Honeycutt@tceq.texas.gov>
wrote:

Ah.
Missed
that.

On
Sep
3,
2017,
at
11:33
AM,
Andrea
Morrow
<Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov>
wrote:

He
dropped

the
ozone
question,
Mike.

From:

Michael
Honeycutt

Sent:

Sunday,
September
3,
2017
11:32
AM

To:

Andrea
Morrow

Cc:

Richard
Chism;
Ryan
Vise;
David
Gray
(gray.david@epa.gov);
Susan
Johnson;
Tracy
Miller;
Lori
Wilson;
Emily
Lindley

Subject:

Re:
Proposed
response
to
AP
questions

-

please
review

On
the
ozone
blurb,
you
could
add
that
TCEQ
and
EPA
send
ozone
notifications
like
we
always
do
to
subscribers
of
our
notification
systems.
There
was
nothing
unusual
about
this
notification.

On
Sep
3,
2017,
at
11:28
AM,
Andrea
Morrow
<Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov>

wrote:

Okay,
what
do
you
all
think
of
this:

**Air
Quality
Monitoring:** Monitors
are
showing
that
air
quality
at
this
time
is
not
concerning
and
local
residents
should
not
be
concerned
about
air
quality
issues
related
to
the
effects
of

the
storm.
Due
to
quick
action
and
proper
preparation
by state authorities,
all
the
ambient
air
quality
monitors
in
the
network
from
south
of
Corpus
Christi
to
Beaumont
were
protected
before
the
storm.
Since
then, state authorities
are
working
to
get
the
systems
up
and
running
again.
As

of
Saturday,
September
2,
over
70
percent
of
the
monitors
are
up
and
working
again;
and
authorities
expect
that
the
network
will
be
fully
operational
again
by
next
week.

Emergency
response
monitoring
at
the
Arkema
facility
evacuation
perimeter
is
being
conducted.
We
will
make

those
data
available
as
we
are
able.
So
far,
nothing
of
immediate
health
concern
has
been
detected.

The
same
rules
apply
for
start-
up,
shut-
down
activities
however
delays
may
occur
based
upon
factors
related
to
the
emergency
in
some
situations
(i.e.
power
outages,

computer
system
failure,
etc.).

From:

Michael
Honeycutt

Sent:

Sunday,
September
3,
2017
11:23
AM

To:

Richard
Chism;
Andrea
Morrow

Cc:

Ryan
Vise;
David
Gray
(gray.david@epa.gov);
Susan
Johnson;
Tracy
Miller

Subject:

Re:
Proposed
response
to
AP
questions
-
please
review

You
could
add
that
we
are
doing
emergency
response
monitoring
at
the
Arkema
facility
evacuation
perimeter
and
will
make
that
data
available
as
we
have
time.
So
far,
nothing
of
immediate
health
concern
has
been
detected.

From:
Richard
Chism

Sent:
Sunday,

September
3,
2017
11:19:57
AM

To:

Andrea
Morrow

Cc:

Ryan
Vise;
David
Gray
(gray.david@epa.gov);
Michael
Honeycutt;
Susan
Johnson;
Tracy
Miller

Subject:

Re:
Proposed
response
to
AP
questions
-
please
review

This
is
directly
from
the
draft
joint
response
this
morning.
You
can
use

it.

**Air
Quality**

Monitoring: Monitors

are
showing
that
air
quality
at
this
time
is
not
concerning
and
local
residents
should
not
be
concerned
about
air
quality
issues
related
to
the
effects
of
the
storm.
Due
to
quick
action
and
proper
preparation
by state authorities,
all
the

ambient
air
quality
monitors
in
the
network
from
south
of
Corpus
Christi
to
Beaumont
were
protected
before
the
storm.
Since
then, state authorities
are
working
to
get
the
systems
up
and
running
again.
As
of
Saturday,
September
2,
over
70
percent
of
the
monitors
are
up

and
working
again;
and
authorities
expect
that
the
network
will
be
fully
operational
again
by
next
week.

Sent
from
my
iPhone

On
Sep
3,
2017,
at
11:14
AM,
Andrea
Morrow
<Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov>
wrote:

Which
is
correct,
65%
or
this:

-

Air
Quality
Monitoring:
One
of
the
many
preparations
for
Hurricane
Harvey
included
EPA,
TCEQ,
and
other
monitoring
entities
temporarily
removing
approximately
75
percent
of
the
stationary
air
monitoring
equipment
from
the
greater
Houston,
Corpus
Christi,
and
Beaumont
areas.
Since
then,
state
and
local
authorities

are
working
to
get
the
systems
up
and
running
again.

As
of
Saturday,
September
2,
over
70
percent
of
the
monitors
are
up
and
working
again;
and
authorities
expect
that
the
network
will
be
fully
operational
again
by
next
week.
Of
the
available
air

monitoring
data
collected
from
August
24-
September
2,
2017,
all
measured
concentrations
were
well
below
levels
of
health
concern.
Monitors
are
showing
that
air
quality
at
this
time
is
not
concerning
and
local
residents
should
not
be
concerned
about
air
quality
issues
related
to

the
effects
of
the
storm.

From:

Ryan
Vise

Sent:

Sunday,
September
3,
2017
11:07
AM

To:

Andrea
Morrow

Cc:

David
Gray
(gray.david@epa.gov);
Richard
Chism;
Michael
Honeycutt;
Susan
Johnson;
Tracy
Miller

Subject:

Re:
Proposed
response
to
AP
questions
-
please

review

I'm
good
with
these
answers.

Sent
from
my
iPhone

On
Sep
3,
2017,
at
11:06
AM,
Andrea
Morrow
<Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov>
wrote:

FYI,
Cory.
He
has
deleted
the
third
question
because
he
understands
the
nature
of
the
AirNow
report.

I
don't
have

sufficient
information
to
answer
these
questions.
I
suggest
we
say,
the
TCEQ
has
reactivated
65
percent
of
our
monitoring
network
in
the
hurricane-
affected
areas.

(Insert
EPA
monitoring
data
here
or
explain
why
it
is
not
available)

The
same
rules
apply
for
start-
up,
shut-
down
activities
however
delays
may
occur
based
upon
factors

related
to
the
emergency
in
some
situations
(i.e.
power
outages,
computer
system
failure,
etc.).

Hourly
data
from
the
operating
ozone
monitors
in
TCEQ's
network
are
used
by
the
EPA
to
predict
air
quality.
What
you
are
looking
at
is
a
forecast
based
on
one-
hour
(snapshot)
readings.
The
201
ppb
you
referenced
is

not
an
actual
monitored
reading,
it
is
a
projection.
TCEQ
is
aware
of
elevated
ozone
levels
west
of
Houston
which
is
not
unusual
for
this
time
of
year.

1)

You

are
doing
air
monitoring
at
the
Arkema
plant
in
Crosby.
Can
you
tell
me
what
your
monitoring
has
found?
What
chemicals
in
what

concentrations?

Where

are

you

doing

the

monitoring

exactly?

2)

Are

EPA/TCEQ

monitoring

air

quality

around

petrochemical

plants

and

refineries

looking

for

potential

problems?

Have

they

deployed

any

mobile

air

monitors?

(I

gather

these

are

EPA

crews

working

in

coordination

with

TCEQ?)

If

so,

what

have

they

found

in

the

last

few

days

near

the
petrochemical
plants
around
the
ship
channel?
If
they
haven't
been
monitoring,
why
not?
The
startup
and
shutdown
operations
typically
produce
heavier
emissions
of
airborne
contaminants,
right?

3)
I
saw
an
ozone
level
of
201
ppb
recorded
in
Houston
on
Friday
on
airnow.gov
and
Andrea
Morrow
of
TCEQ
told
my
colleague
Jason
Dearen

that
the
reading
was
recorded
as
a
single
hourly
max
at
one
monitoring
station.
Your
ozone
level
for
the
day
(95
ppb)
is
based
on
an
eight-
hour
of
average,
she
said.
But
that
does
not
deny
that
a
single
station
had
that
maximum
level,
correct?
What
station
was
it?
Can
you
tell
me

what
hour
of
the
day?
Did
any
other
stations
Very
Unhealthy
ozone
levels
on
Friday
or
Saturday?

Hourly

data
from
the
operating
ozone
monitors
in
TCEQ's
network
are
used
by
the
EPA
to
predict
air
quality.
What
you
are
looking
at
is
a
forecast
based
on
one-
hour
(snapshot)
readings.
The
201
ppb

you
referenced
is
not
an
actual
monitored
reading,
it
is
a
projection.
TCEQ
is
aware
of
elevated
ozone
levels
west
of
Houston
which
is
not
unusual
for
this
time
of
year.

4)
What
are
the
state
of
Texas
and
the
EPA
doing
to
monitor
public
health
near
the
petrochemical
plants
and
refineries
given

the
extraordinary
shutdown
and
startup
pollution
and
the
possibility
of
contaminants
released
into
their
neighborhoods?
Will
there
be
health
monitoring?
If
so,
by
whom?
If
not,
why
not?